

Mission Statement

"The West Hartford Human Rights Commission fosters mutual understanding and respect among people, and encourages equality of treatment of all people, regardless of race, color, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, civil union status, gender identity or expression, marital status, familial status, genetic information, age, economic status, lawful source of income, national origin or ancestry, or present or past history of physical, mental, intellectual or learning disability including, but not limited to blindness."

TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION WEST HARTFORD TOWN HALL

7:00 P.M.

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Room 217

MINUTES

Attendance—Krishna Adhikar, Judy Borden (Chair), Charles Cleary, Helga Gordon, Judy Wyman Kelly (Secretary), Margaret Liu, and Barry Walters. Pramod Pradhan (town liaison).

- **Minutes**—It was moved (Krishna A) and seconded (Judy B) that minutes from the 6.28.16 meeting be approved with no changes. The vote passed unanimously.
- **New town liaison**—Pramod Pradhan (community engagement liaison for the town library) will be the new liaison between the town and the HR Commission, replacing Marcia Lewis. Pramod is originally from Nepal, but has lived in West Hartford for many years and is a U.S. citizen.
- **Park Road Parade**—Judy K has been in touch with Conard and Hall inviting students to march in the parade on October 1. Judy K will be in touch with information on where and at what time to meet before the parade.
- **Review of Commission membership and term expiration dates**—Margaret Liu's second term expires Dec. 31. She cannot run again. Helga, Karyl and Judy K.'s first terms expire on Dec. 31. Helga will not run again, Judy K.'s hasn't decided, and Karyl's decision is unknown at this point. The Commission will get the word out that at least two and maybe four vacancies will exist come January.
- **CT Racial Profiling Prohibition Project**—The commission discussed whether or not the town council should monitor the findings of this annual report. Pramod will follow up with the town manager. The report can be accessed at: <http://ctrp3.ctdata.org/>
- **Charter of Compassion/City of Compassion**—The sub-committee (Chuck C., Chuck A., and Barry) met and felt the focus should be on the following five issues: affordable housing, policing, diversity, immigration, LGBT community.

Chuck C. & Barry met with town council member Ben Wenograd, who reported that the mayor was open to the concept. Ben suggested removing affordable housing from the list as there actually is a lot going on with that topic (there just hasn't been much press). Ben also emphasized that is no budget line and that the commission should prepare a proposal with more concrete items. The sub-committee will review information about other cities of compassion and report back.

- **Welcome Packets**--Pramod cleared up a misconception: the City of Hartford has not produced a welcome packet for immigrants/refugees. There is only a general one produced by the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS). Pramod suggested that the commission come up with an English version and then translate into five or so languages. The suggestion was made to look at other places that might already have Welcome Packets, such as South Windsor or Catholic Charities. The WH Public Library will launch a new website for immigrants soon.
- **Providing Rides to Voters on Election Day**—Judy B. and Chuck C. expressed concern about liability issues if transporting voters in personal cars. It was agreed that the Facebook page could be used to encourage people to vote.
- **Next meeting**— Tuesday, November 1, 2016, room 400
- **Meeting adjourned**—9:00 pm

Minutes submitted by Judy Wyman Kelly and Chuck Cleary